prayer in lieu of existing Idgah located at Army Ordinance Corps; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no Idgah at Army Ordance Corps Centre, Hyderabad. However, an Idgah is located in close vicinity of the family quarters of Station Headquarters, Hyderabad which is located at considerable distance from Army Ordnanace Corps Centre. No request has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government for alternative site for Muslims to offer prayers in lieu of this Idgah.

Decodification of Kautilya's Arthshastra

1512. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a proposal to decode Kautilya's Arthshastra and assigned the work to the Defence Research and Development Organisation; and

(b) if so, the detials and cost of the decodification project and its main objectives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, DRDO has funded a project on 'Scientific Investigation of Warfare Practices in Kautilya's Arthshastra' to Pune University under 'Grants-in-Aid' scheme.The project cost is Rs. 7.31 lakh and its main objectives include investigation of claims made by Kautilya in his Arthshastra on long working and walking long distances without fatigue.

deployment of troops at LoC and International Border

1513. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deployment of troops along the LoC and International Border, defensive or keeping a check on infiltration also a part of the move; and

(b) how long the Government propose to keep the troops deployed on the border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Deployment of Indian troops along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir is a permanent feature to ensure its sanctity as also to check infiltration.

As a result of mobilisation of Indian Army along the International Border, during 'OP PARAKRAM", our defensive deploymnet has further , enhanced our effectiveness to check infiltration from across the International Border.

(b) The deploymnet of troops on the borders will continue till such time Government's aim with regard to cross border terrorism is achieved.

Indigenous production of mines

1514. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operational preparedness of the Navy has been affected due to the failure of DRDO to achieve indigenous production of mines for it; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government had sanctioned four projects of sea mines. Three projects led to production after successful developmnet. The fourt project did not achieve all the objectives and it was partially successful. The total cost of all these projects was Rs. 2.145 crore only.

Compensation to land mine victims

1515. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of human lives and livestock in border areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir where land mines have been laid by the armed forces;

(b) whether the loss have been adequately compensated, if so, the amount paid so far and how much is yet to be paid; and

(c) what mechanism has been evolved to ensure that each and every effected person received due compensation?